

## PETITION

OF

A NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA,

PRAYING

*The establishment of a National Bank.*

JULY 4, 1838.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled :*

Your petitioners are among the number of those who have experienced the evils of our present deranged and vitiated currency. They have hoped and expected a change for the better, and that Congress would, in its wisdom, do something to remedy the misfortunes under which we labor, and restore to us a sound currency of permanent and uniform value throughout our country. Or if it was out of its power, by positive and active measures, to do this, they hoped that Congress would perceive the impolicy of persevering in, and would abandon, a course of measures calculated to continue the present embarrassment, to oppress the interests of all the industrious and productive classes, to depreciate still more the currency that exists among us, and to paralyze the naturally elastic and recuperative energies of the country.

Their hopes and expectations are thus far disappointed ; at least, they can see no prospect of even partial relief in the measures which have been discussed and are still under consideration by Congress. In the measure called the "*Sub-Treasury*" they can perceive nothing that promises succor or relief ; on the contrary, everything that is odious and suspicious, that is pernicious to the currency and exchanges, and pregnant with all the mischiefs which can be apprehended from an ambitious and unscrupulous Executive, disposed to increase and strengthen his power by the corrupting means of patronage and money. We cannot find language strong enough to express our deprecation of such a measure.

A national bank we believe to be the only true, proper, certain, safe, efficient, practical, and practicable measure to remedy the distresses of the country, and to supply us with a permanent, uniform, and universal medium of circulation and exchange. Its efficacy has been tried, and why should we doubt it ? Experience has proved its utility, and why should we refuse to be governed by its light ? And our distresses, when deprived of it, have been invariable, and felt from one extreme of the Union to the other.

Should we not be admonished by these facts? should we obstinately resist the influence of these overwhelming truths?

Your petitioners represent various interests of society, principally the agricultural. Some of them were originally opposed to a Bank of the United States; nor were they satisfied of their error until recently. The events of the last few years have convinced them that their objection to a national bank was unsound; experience daily confirms the propriety of this conviction; and they are now persuaded that nothing but a bank, such or similar to that proposed by an honorable Senator of the United States, can secure to us a safe and uniform currency. Your petitioners believe that a majority of the people of Virginia and of the United States are friendly to it. *We know* that our interests demand it, and, sooner or later, we must have it.

We, therefore, the undersigned, citizens of the county of Westmoreland, in the State of Virginia, do petition and pray Congress to adopt the speediest means to establish a *national bank*, on the basis of the *projet* lately submitted to the Senate of the United States by the honorable Henry Clay, of Kentucky. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c. &c.

J. T. Harvey

James P. Jenkins

Thos. S. Muse

J. J. Doleman

Wm. H. Hill

Jas. Baker

Samuel Lewis

William Berkley, jr.

John Berkley

Geo. G. Barack

Vincent Barack

Jas. E. Beatley

William Morse

Henry P. Bowcock

G. E. Deatley

Benjamin F. S. McKenney

Tho. R. Ditty

G. W. Lewis

J. H. Payne

Ro: Mayo, jr.

Wm. Hutt

W. G. Walker

J. Porter

Jas. Montgomery

Geo. M. Carter

Henry T. Garnett

Jno. B. Lewis

Jno. M. Carpenter

Jno. H. Smoot